Application No.: 09/758,980   Docket No.: 20136-00327-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims.

Listing of the Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for generalized Common Gateway
Interface (CGI) processing, comprising:

   (a) providing a plurality of distinct CGI forms on a server connected to a network;

   (b) receiving a plurality of distinct user requests over said network; and

   (c) responding to said requests by invoking a single, generalized CGI processing routine
for enabling user data corresponding to said plurality of distinct CGI forms to be entered
comprising:

   (d) generating a parameter file from a selected CGI form corresponding to a user request;

   (e) presenting said selected CGI form on a display device, to collect user input data
corresponding to said selected CGI form;

   (f) presenting said selected CGI form on a display device, to collect user data; and

   (g) parsing said collected data according to said parameter file to for an out put file.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 1, said step (d) comprising
extracting input field names from said selected CGI form.

2

Application No.: 09/758,980   Docket No.: 20136-00327-US

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 1, further comprising:

reading said user input data based on said parameter file; and

formatting said user input data for output to said user.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

executing post processing functions to perform additional specified operations on said
user input data;

generating an output file including formatted input data and results of said operations;
and

reporting a result of said request back to said user.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said post-processing functions include
calculations based on said user input and dispatching electronic mail transmitting said output file
to a targeted user.

7.   (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a network for transmitting a plurality of user requests to a server;

a server linked to said network, said server comprising:
a plurality of distinct CGI forms corresponding to said requests; and

generalized handling means for handling each of said plurality of distinct CGI forms in
response to said requests, comprising:

a single initial data-gathering means for generating a plurality of distinct parameter files
from said plurality of distinct CGI forms; and

3

Application No.: 09/758,980   Docket No.: 20136-00327-US

a single action means for processing said parameter files from a plurality of distinct forms and performing user-specified operations corresponding thereto.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 9 7, said initial data-gathering means further comprising:

    means for retrieving said distinct CGI forms from said server in response to said requests;

    means for presenting said distinct CGI forms to a user and accepting corresponding user input data.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 10, said action means further comprising:

    means for reading said user input data based on said parameter files;

    means for formatting said user input data;

    means for calling post-processing functions to perform additional specified operations on said user input data;

    means for generating an output file including formatted input data and results of said operations; and

    means for reporting a result of a request back to a user.

4

Application No.: 09/758,980   Docket No.: 20136-00327-US

12.   (original) The system of claim 11, wherein said post-processing functions include calculations based on said user input and dispatching electronic mail transmitting said output file to a targeted user.

13.   (Original) In a network linking issuers of requests to a server comprising a plurality of distinct CGI forms, a method comprising:

(a) in response to a first request, retrieving a first CGI form from said server and presenting said first CGI form to an issuer of said first request;

(b) accepting first input data based on said first CGI form and sending said first input data to said server;

(c) in response to a second request, retrieving a second CGI form different from said first CGI form from said server, and presenting said second CGI form to an issuer of said second request;

(d) accepting second input data based on said second CGI form and sending said second input data to said server; and

(e) using a single CGI form handling program of said server for processing both said first and second CGI forms and first and second input data.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13, said step (e) comprising:

executing the same initial data gathering routine for each of said first and second requests, said initial data gathering routine comprising the steps of:

parsing input fields in the corresponding CGI form to generate a parameter file;

displaying the corresponding CGI form on a display device; and

generating a submitted CGI form by recording inputs to said corresponding CGI form via said display device.

5

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, said step (e) further comprising:

following said initial data gathering routine, executing the same data processing routine for each of said first and second requests, said data processing routine comprising the steps of:

(f) reading said parameter file to determine which fields of said submitted CGI form to process;

    (g) formatting data in fields determined according to step (f); and

    (h) returning a result of said request to an issuer of said request.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

executing a post-processing program, said post-processing program performing operations on said inputs; and

sending an output file generated by said post-processing program to an electronic mail address of a target recipient.

17. (Currently amended) A computer program product tangibly embodied on a computer-usable medium, said computer program product comprising computer-executable instructions which when executed implement a process comprising:

(a) providing a plurality of distinct CGI forms on a server connected to a network;

(b) receiving a plurality of distinct user requests over said network; and

(c) responding to said requests by invoking a single, generalized CGI processing routine; for enabling user data corresponding to said plurality of distinct CGI forms to be entered;

(d) presenting said selected CGI form on a display device to collect user input data corresponding to said selected CGI form;

(e) generating a parameter file from a selected CGI form corresponding to a user request;

6

Application No.: 09/758,980   Docket No.: 20136-00327-US

(f) generating an output file using said parameter file and input data using said single generated CGI processing routine.

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Currently amended) The program product of claim 18 17, further comprising:

executing post-processing functions to perform additional specified operations on said user input data;

generating an output file including formatted input data and results of said operations; and

reporting a result of said request back to said user.

20.   (Original) The program product of claim 19, wherein said post-processing functions include calculations based on said user input and dispatching electronic mail transmitting said output file to a targeted user.

7